

SALLIE
(ENTERS R. U. HANGS UP HER HAT AND COAT. SHE IS A VERY BUSINESS LI
YOUNG STENOGRAPHER. GOES TO HER DESK, AND BEGINS SORTING OUT PAPERS.)

DODSON
(ENTERS R. U. HE IS IN OVERALLS AND WORK CLOTHES. A RATHER ROUGH
FEATURED TYPE OF MAN. HE IS THE FOREMAN OF THE KELLY STEAM BOILER
MANUFACTURING COMPANY) (GRUNTS BUT NOT A MEAN CHARACTER) Hump! Hullo,
Sallie! The old devil here yet?

SALLIE
Who do you mean, Dodson?

DODSON
You know who I mean---the stubborn old fool what owns this darn
murder factory.

SALLIE
Mr. Kelly isn't down yet. He may be a little late. You know his son
just got back from Europe.

DODSON
Wonder if Steven is going to turn out like his old man?

SALLIE
Listen, Dodson, don't worry. Steven Kelly is one of the finest men
that ever lived. He's one hundred per cent. And don't you say anything
against him.

DODSON
(LAUGHING) All right, all right, Miss Spit-fire. Guess you're kinda
stuck on him, eh? Better not let the old man find it out or he'll
fire you so quick it'll make your head swim.

SALLIE
Yeah? Did you want something, Mr. Dodson?

DODSON
Yes---here's my report---and also another request for some new guards
and machinery.

SALLIE
The town people are also making request for newer and safer machinery
in his factory.

DODSON
Two deaths---and five injuries that were serious in the short span
of a year ought to make a man think.

SALLIE
He does think, Mr. Dodson. But he's bound and determined that they
are not going to force him into it. He knows that he's got the X on
the whole town. What can we do? He owns nearly everything worth
while.

DODSON
t hasn't he a heart? Can't he see how cruel his stubbornness is.

SALLIE

He is blind, Dodson, blind!

DODSON

Well, some day he'll be defeated. He can't go on forever like he's going.

SALLIE

People have been saying that for twenty years in this town, and old John Kelly's Steam Boiler factory still runs with machinery that is so old it creaks with age. (WHISTLE BLOWS OFF STAGE)

DODSON

There she blows.

SALLIE

(SETTING HER WRIST WATCH) Eight bells.

DODSON

God! I hate that whistle----I've been listening to it blow for twenty years. I reckon that'll be my torture in Hell ---listenin' to a darn whistle blow.

SALLIE

(SMILING) I don't like to hear it blow in the morning---but believe me it sure sounds good a quittin' time in the evenin'.

DODSON

It used to to me, but it don't any more, cause I know it only means I've got to come back the next day.

BULL DOG KELLY

(OFF STAGE. STRONG DOMINEERING VOICE) Good morning! Good morning!

SALLIE

Here he comes now.

BULL DOG KELLY

(ENTER R. U.) Good morning! Good morning!

SALLIE

Good morning, Mr. Kelly.

DODSON

Good morning, Mr. Kelly.

KELLY

Bah! That's all I've been saying all morning---as I walked through the factory. Bowing and scraping to me---smiling and saying, "good morning, Mr. Kelly" when every one of them would like to cut my throat. (SITS DOWN AT HIS DESK) Well, Dodson, what's on your mind?

DODSON

My report sheet is right there, sir. But I've got another request from department B.

KELLY

We want new machinery! Well, they won't get it!

DODSON

DODSON

Mr. Kelly, do you know that old fly wheel blame near caught Pop Chandler the other day---if it had of--

KELLY

It would of killed him. Tell the old fool to watch out for the wheel. He's too old to be working around machinery any way. The trouble with you workmen is you think that you ought to have everything.

DODSON

Mr. Kelly, all we ask for is a fair break.

KELLY

You get your salary don't you?

DODSON

Yes.

KELLY

That's all you should worry about then. I don't want to hear any more about it, Dodson. By the way, how is your son coming along in his department?

DODSON

All right, sir.

KELLY

Is he capable of handling a gang of men?

DODSON

He's just like his father, sir.

KELLY

Good enough! I'll give you credit, Dodson; you can certainly handle men. Well, I'm going to put him in Pop Chandler's place.

DODSON

You're not going to fire Pop?

KELLY

No, but I'm going to demote him---he's too old. Well, that's that. You know it means ten dollars on the week more for your family.

DODSON

Yes sir, but I hate to see Pop get it--

KELLY

That will do, Dodson.

DODSON

All right, sir. (EXITS D. R. U. WITH A SLIGHTLY WORRIED LOOK UPON HIS FACE)

KELLY

Sallie, I have an add in the newspaper for an office boy. None have shown up yet, have they?

SALLIE

(AT HER DESK) NO sir.

KELLY

I want a nice bright youngster who can be taught something--and will take an interest in the work. By the way, my son just got back from Europe, and I expect he'll want to dabble around the office.

SALLIE

Yes---of course you'll want him to follow in your footsteps?

KELLY

Hmmm! I don't know whether I do or not. Steven doesn't need to work. I've worked all of my life, and now I want my son and daughter to enjoy an easy life.

SALLIE

You're different from a lot of rich men.

KELLY

(SMILES) Different in a lot of ways I guess.

TOBY

(KNOCKS ON THE DOOR R. U.) Hey! who runs this joint any way?

KELLY

What in the world is that?

TOBY

Well, if ya won't let me in, I'll come in an way. (ENTERS R. U.)
Well, who runs this rotten lookin' outfit any way?

KELLY

I beg your pardon?

TOBY

What for? You didn't do nothin' Say are you the lpp eared bozo that put the add in the Jews Paper.

KELLY

You mean the newspaper.

TOBY

I mean the jewspaper.

KELLY

Why do you call it a Jewspaper?

TOBY

Cause I found it on a Jew's door step.

KELLY

Well, what do you want?

TOBY

(SITS ON TOP OF HIS DESK) Well, what have you got?

KELLY

Well, upon my soul! I never saw the like.

TOBY

Well, you're handin' me a laugh too. You're the guy they call Bull dog Kelly--

KELLY

Sallie--I Miss Mason, I'm afraid you had better take charge of this person.

SALLIE

(RISES) Yes, Mr. Kelly. (STARTS TOWARD TOBY)

TOBY

Get away! For a sock you in the jaw. Listen, I'm here to get a job. Say this is about the cheapest joint I ever stepped into. I oughtn't to take the job, but I guess I will. Well, when do I go to work.

KELLY

When do you go to work?

TOBY

Sure, what did you think I was going to do---chase butterflies or something. Get wise! Get wise! When do I start drawing my salary.

KELLY

My dear fellowk---

TOBY

Don't get personal---just tell me what do and I'll do it. (LOUD)
Well, come on. Gee, you're slow!

KELLY

(STERNLY) Just a moment! Allow me to tell you something. I wouldn't hire you if I never had an office boy.

TOBY

What! Huh! What's the matter? How come? How come?

KELLY

I placed an advertisement in the newspaper for a nice young boy with polite manners. I could never use you. Why you are too rough and crude. Had you come in here like a gentleman, and knocked on the door lightly, instead of trying to pound it down, it might have been different. Now let me tell you something right now, young fellow, the next time you go looking for a job, don't come in like a cyclone. You should come in very dignified. Remark about how nice the office looked. Compliment me on my furniture--the wall paper the cieling my appearance---then I might consider you. But as it is, you would never do. I'm very sorry to have to ask you to leave.

TOBY

(HAS REMAINED PERFECTLY QUIET ALL THROUGH SPEECH. HE VERY SOFTLY CREEPS UP TO THE D. R. U. BOWS) All right. (EXITS R. U.)

KELLY

Can you imagine that?

SALLIE

That's Toby Teeters. He's quite a bright young fellow, but I'm afraid he's a little smart.

KELLY

Yes, too smart!

SALLIE

Mr. Kelly, here is your mornings mail.

KELLY

(LOOKS THROUGH IT) Another letter from that machine factory. Wanting to sell me new machinery. This is some more of the work of the towners

SALLIE

Are you not afraid that your men will strike, Mr. Kelly?

KELLY

(LAUGHS) Let 'em strike! They're the ones that need the salary not I. Why I could close this factory down and live for the rest of my life in ease and comfort. Which reminds me that I have a jacking up to give a few workmen in the rivet department.

SALLIE

Mr. King sent in a report about that trouble yesterday in the rivet department, and--

KELLY

Mr. King? What's his number?

SALLIE

Number 7.

KELLY

Please speak of my employees as numbers, they are not names to me, but numbers. That's all. (EXITS L.) I'll go through this way.

SALLIE

(LOOKING AFTER HIM) Some times I wonder if he is human.

STEVEN

(ENTERS R. U.) Sallie!

SALLIE

(RUNNING TO HIS ARMS) Steven! (QUICKLY RECOVERS HERSELF AND RELEASES HER ARMS FROM ABOUT HIM) Oh---I---I forgot.

STEVEN

Forgot? What was wrong with that? Four years away from you, and if you hadn't done that then, I'd been sore.

SALLIE

But, Steven, what would your father say?

STEVEN

What dad doesn't know--doesn't hurt him. Gee, the old factory hasn't changed a bit.

SALLIE

That's what they all say. But you've changed, Steve.

STEVEN

I have? How?

SALLIE

(LAUGHS) You've grown up!

STEVEN

Don't tell me I was a little baby when I left for Europe.

SALLIE

You were only seventeen, Steve.

STEVEN

Gee, Sallie, it's great to be back with you. And listen, what do you thin---I'm going to be with you every day. I'm going to work too.

SALLIE

Here--in the office?

STEVEN

In the office nothin'---I'm going out in dad's old factory and do the hardest work they've got---you know the kind that makes your muscles get big.

SALLIE

Will your father care?

STEVEN

It won't do him any good. Say I hear a lot of bad reports on the old cross patch.

SALLIE

The same old complaint---always fighting with the men who work for him.

STEVEN

You know I'm going to look into the situation. I think every one ought to have a mission in life---and I'll make mine seeing what I can do to help the men who work for dad.

SALLIE

It would be the greatest thing that you could do, Steven. Did you know that I've written a book which is to be published this-month--and it's all about your father?

STEVEN

You have? What did you call the book?

SALLIE

The Zear of America.

STEVEN

It doesn't sound as though you've discussed him very favorably. Surely you don't use his real name?

SALLIE

Of course not, but when he reads it and hears people talking about he'll know. Wait---I'll give you a manuscript of it to read, but you mustn't let anybody see it in your hands---

STEVEN

Why?

SALLIE

Your father would fire me, and I need the work right now,

(GETS MANUSCRIPT FROM A LOCKED DRAWER IN HER DESK) Read it, and tell me what you think about it, but beecareful.

STEVEN(TA
(TAKING MANUSCRIPT AND PUTTING IT IN HIS INNER COAT POCKET) All right I sure want to read it. But, Sallie, you're not going to work after we're married, are you?

SALLIE
Married? (LAUGHS) Don't make me laugh, Steve. Your father would rather have you killed than married to me.

STEVE
That's all right, you and I are going to be married; I don't care what dad says. Sallie, you haven't kissed me since I left--that's been four years. It's time for another one. (TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS)

PEGGY
(ENTERS R. U. JUST AS THEY ARE IN EACH OTHERS EMBRACE) Oh ho! What I don't know about you two!

STEVEN
Sis!

PEGGY
(COMING DOWN) Oh that's all right. Don't mind me. I do things like that myself some time. Congratulations, Sallie; Steven is the best big brother in the world, and I'm glad he's got a girl like you.

STEVEN
You see, Sallie, my sis and I aren't finnicky about things like dad is.

PEGGY
I should say not. Dad wants me to marry an earl, but do you think I'm going to marry one of those---"Oh yass! By jove! My word!" (IMITATES AN ENGLISHMAN WITH MONOCLE) things? Huh. Not on your life. Say where is the old cross patch?

SALLIE
He went out to the factory. He ought to be back soon.

PEGGY
Let's hope so---I want some money.

KELLY
(ENTERS L.) Well, well, what's this, and how much is going to cost me?

PEGGY
Only twenty five dollars,--(GOES OVER TO HIM AND STROKES HIS HAIR) And daddy, why in the world don't you get a hair cut.

STEVEN
That's what I say, dad. In fact dad, I think the town should make a request that you either have your hair cut or pay a dog tax.

KELLY
Bah! Let the twon make a request---and I'll let my hair grow to my shoulders.

PEGGY
Stubborn! (STAMPS HER FOOT)

Kelly
(HANDS HER TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS)

PEGGY
Sweet!. Well, ta ta! Better get your hair cut, daddy. (GOES UP TO D. R. U.)

TOBY
(KNOCKS ON D. R. U. VERY GENTLY)

Kelly
See who's at the door, Peggy.

PEGGY
(OPENS THE DOOR) Come in!

TOBY
(ENTERS VERY MEELY) Thank you, ma'am.

KELLY
What you---again?

TOBY
(OVER POLITE) Yes, sir, I beg your pardon sir, but I could I please to say, sir, that you have a very wonderful office. I believe you are the distinguished gentleman who placed the advertisement in the news paper for a boy. ~~HOWEVER I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY~~ Nice office you have here. I like the rug on the ceiling, I mean the cieling on the rug. Good furniture. You look nice this morning. (TURNS TO ALL OF THEM AND BOWS) So do you, so do you so do you.

SALLIE
(GIGGLES) Isn't he cute?

TOBY
Really, Mr. Kelly, I think you are a wonderful business man.

KELLY
Well, now that's certainly changing your tune a little. (TO STEVEN) Steven, can you imagine, this boy? He came in here this morning like a cyclone--started ordering me around and everything. Well, I talked to him, and he profited by my lecture. Certainly a change in him, isn't there, Sallie?

SALLIE
There certainly is.

KELLY
My boy, you have shown me that you can listen to some one and understand what they say. Now I'm willing to talk to you since you came in here in the right way. The way it was before I would never listen to you, but now I'm ready. Young fellow what is it you have to say to me?

TOBY
(REAL GRUFF) You can go to hell! I've got a job across the street!

----- NUMBER ONE -----

(SALLIE IS ON WRITING ON THE TYPEWRITER)

KELLY

(ENTERS R. U.) Well, good morning, Sallie.. Another day started on the way, eh?

SALLIE

Yes sir. Here's your mail, sir.

KELLY

(LOOKS OVER THE MAIL) Hump! Look at this --they are opening up a new barber shop in town, and some practical joker thought it would be funny to send me an invitation.

SALLIE

Your hair is getting rather long, Mr. Kelly?

KELLY

(SARCASTIC) Is it? Well, that's so good of you to tell me. It'll be longer than that before I'll cut it. It seems to me that people would learn to tend to their own business. I wonder when they'll get tired of trying to run my affairs.

SALLIE

Today is pay day you know, Mr. Kelly.

KELLY

~~Pay-the-ani~~ Yes, today the animals get fed again, don't they?

SALLIE

Is that all your workman are to you, Mr. Kelly?

KELLY

Sallie, I do not think that any body does me a favor by working for me. Those men out there think that they help me, but they don't. Why if it weren't for me---this town would be filled with hungry men and women---my pay roll keeps them going year in and year out.

SALLIE

We all know that.

KELLY

And yet they are not satisfied. They want sanitary working conditions. Some of the fools even suggested that I build a gymnasium for them to have rest periods and play periods. (LAUGHS) They must think I'm crazy.

SALLIE

But, Mr. Kelly, you must remember that those men haven't had a chance at the luxuries of life that you have had---

KELLY

[illegible]

SAILIE

You were born with money and luxury---they weren't.

KELLY

All the more reason they shouldn't expect it. Socialist! That's what they are. They'd have me share my wealth with them. They'd put me and my family on the level with them. The scum! I hate them.

DODSON

(KNOCKS AND ENTERS R. U.) Mr. Kelly, Pop Chandler hurt his arm real bad just now.

KELLY

Why tell me---haven't I provided a hospital room for such affairs--The old fool---I'm going to pay him a salary not to work.

DODSON

Very well, sir---but ~~ha~~was working around that big fly wheel.

KELLY

He should of been careful--he knows it's dangerous.

DODSON

Well, sir, he was trying to fix the darn thing. It's so old it is going to fall apart.

KELLY

That will do, Dodson.

DODSON

Very well, sir. I might tell you thought that my son quit the other day.

KELLY

That so?

DODSON

Yes sir. He got him a job that was safer.

KELLY

(SNEERING) Maybe you would like a safer job too.

DODSON

Yes sir, but I can't find one, sir.

KELLY

I admire you frankness.

STEVEN

(ENTERS R. U.) Hello, dad. Gee, I been having a keen time. Say I never knew your old factory was so big. Gosh! There's something doing in every swaure inch of the place. And, dad, the men that work for you are princes. I'd like to work with them all.

DODSON

Well, why don't you?

STEVEN

Think I'm afraid to, Dodson, old boy?

DODSON

No sir.

STEVEN

Well, I'm going to work---going to carry a dinner bucket and everything

KELLY

Steven!

STEVEN

Don't get excited dad, I won't make you pay me a salary.

KELLY

It's not that---but why should you waste your time?

DODSON

I think it would be splendid for him---

KELLY

That will do from you, Dodson. (SEVERELY)

DODSON

Yes sir. (GOES UP TO D. R. U.)

STEVEN

Don't worry, Dodson, I'll be with you tomorrow.

DODSON

(SMILING IRONICALLY) I trust you enjoy it as much as I do. (EXITS R. U.)

KELLY

(FOLLOWING HIM UP) Dissatisfied, complaining mob of dogs!

STEVEN

I think you've got 'em wrong, dad. They're humans!

KELLY

Bah! I never noticed it.

STEVEN

Well, I'm going to work right among 'em. I want to learn the trade.

KELLY

Then why not start in the office where you can wear a clean suit?

STEVEN

Because I don't want that. I've always had clean suits. I'd like to wear overalls for a change, and see how I feel in 'em. By the way, I bought a pair today.

KELLY

(SITTING DOWN AT HIS DESK WITH A SNORT) Crazy young upstart!

STEVEN

(SITTING ON TOP OF HIS DESK) You're all wrong. Dad, while I was away in Europe I had a chance to meet all kinds of people. There was one type of parasite I hope never to be. That's one of those things that never work, and expect their parents to carry them through life just because they were born of wealthy families.

KELLY

It is very odd that you take this stand when all those men out there working me seem dream of that as the ideal life.

STEVEN

No they don't. Those men out there want to work, but they want to have a chance at a few of the little luxuries of life, and they don't want to live in constant fear of being killed---that's why they fight you--and I can't see why you're so stubborn.

KELLY

It is my nature to be stubborn, as it is some people's nature to be crazy. Steven, you go to work out there in that factory and listen to that bunch of anarchist and socialist---listen to them talk and complain because they are working and getting a salary. Listen to what they think of your father. I'll wager after one day, you'll be ready to call it quits, and take my stand against them.

STEVEN

Fair enough! That's what I want to do---see just what is the matter. (TURNS TO SALLIE) Here that, Sallie---I'm on the payroll now.

SALLIE

I'll give you a number. (PICKS UP BOOK)

Steven

Say, I'm just an employee--not a convict.--

KELLY

My men are not names to me, Steven, they are numbers--just numbers.

SALLIE

You're number is thirteen---

STEVEN

Great! Now all I have to do is discover this is Friday the Thirteenth and I'll feel just as lucky as man with thirteen black cats in front of him.

KELLY

Well, clear out of the office now. I can't be bothered hearing your talk about the working man.

STEVEN

All right, dad---say do you know what you need dad? (SERIOUS)

KELLY

What?

STEVEN

A haircut!

KELLY

That so---well that means I'll just put it off a little longer. Every time some meddling fool tells me that I need a hair cut I postpone a trip to the barber that much longer.

STEVEN

If they don't quit, you'll be a walking advertisement for some hair tonic.

KELLY

Well, scat! Get out!

STEVEN

(GOING UP D. R. U.) But, dad if I were you----I'd--- (KELLY LOOKS AT HIM) ---get a shave! (LAUGHS AND EXITS R. U.)

KELLY

That rascal! (SMILES A LITTLE*) Great boy, though, great boy!

SALLIE

You think a great deal of your son, don't you, Mr. Kelly.

KELLY

He's all the world to me! Well, this isn't getting the days work over. Look at these letters and filings---I need an office boy--confound it why can't I get one---only two applied the other day--and that smart aleck with the job across the street was both of them.

SALLIE

We certainly do need some one to handle the errands around here.

KELLY

Looks like some aspiring youngster ought to take my offer in the paper.

TOBY

(ENTERS Q QUIETLY AND UNNOTICED R. U.)

Sallie

Good office boys are really rare birds.

KELLY

Look at this office---if I had a boy it couldbe straightened out---piles of paper here, and piles of paper there! (POINTS TO BUNDLE OF PAPER ON L. OF DESK) I wish that paper were in the waste basket. (TURNS AROUND FROM IT)

TOBY

(COMES DOWN LL OF DESK. PANTOMIMES TO SALLIE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING. HE THEN TAKES THE PAPER AND PUTS IT IN THE WASTE BASKET. STANDS BACK OF KELLY SO HE CAN'T SEE HIM)

Kelly

Here's another pile of papers in the way. (R.) (TURNS TO L.) (LOOKS SURPRISED) Where's that bundle of papers?

SALLIE

What bundle? (TOBY TAKES BUNDLE ON R. AND PUTS THEM IN WASTE BASKET)

KELLY

It was there a moment ago. Did you throw them in the waste basket?

SALLIE

No sir.

KELLY

Strange! I was just remarking that this bundle should be thrown in the waste basket together with this--(TURNS AND SEES THAT THE

R. BUNDLE IS GONE ALSO) Great Heavnes! What's the matter with me?
I think I'd better put on my hat and take a walk.

TOBY

(GETS HIS HAT AND PUTS IT ON HIS HEAD FOR HIM)

KELLY

(LOOKS. SEES THAT SALLIE IS STANDING IN FRONT OF HIM AND COULD NOT
HAVE DONE IT. FEELS TO MAKE SURE THE HAT IS ON HIS HEAD) Say are
there spooks around here or something? (TURNS AROUND AND SEES TOBY
WHO HAS TAKEN A BROOM AND IS SWEEPING VIGOROUSLY) What you back again?

TOBY

Yes sir! I lost my job across the street.

KELLY

Well of all the nerve you've got it.

TOBY

I know I've got IT--but have I got the job?

KELLY

Yes---you're so damn smart I like you!

TOBY

After I'm around here awhile---I'll grow on you.

KELLY

Well, I don't want you to get quite that well attached. Just do
your work, and tend to your own business, and I'll be satisfied.
Give him a number, Sallie.

SALLIE

(LOOKS IN BOOK) Number fourteen.

KELLY

Will you remember that?

TOBY

Sure---that's the size shoe I wear.

KELLY

You're feet surely aren't that large?

TOBY

No mine--aint but my brothers are.

KELLY

Oh you wike hand me downs, eh?

TOBY

Yep, I'm the last one in line in a family of sixteen. Dad buys
a suit of clothes it goes the rounds, gets to me last.

KELLY

That must be a misfortune.

TOBY

Not only a misfortune, but a misfit. I get the little end of everythi
At the dinner table I'm the last one in line for grub. No kiddin'

for ten years I never knew there was anything to a chicken but the neck!

KELLY

A family of sixteen---my the stork must have visited your house plenty of times!

TOBY

Did he? That stork came to our house so much, he wore his legs off--till he looked like a duck.

KELLY

Well, Sallie, I think I leave you to handle this carcature of life. I must be going.

TOBY

Well keep your hat on--the government's lookin' for timber.

KELLY

Young man no brilliant remarks.

TOBY

Gosh you need a hair cut.

KELLY

Bah! (THROWS UP HIS HANDS AND EXITS R. U.)

TOBY

(LAUGHS) Gosh, that old fellow's a laugh a minute to me.

SALLIE

You want to be careful, Toby, or you'll get fired.

TOBY

Wouldn't be the first time I got fired. You know I believe in speakin' my mind---and I aint a darn bit particular who I cuss out. The old geezer don't know it, but I'm getting on very intimate terms with his daughter.

SALLIE

You mean you are going with Peggy?

TOBY

Remember when I come in the other day tryin' to get a job?

SALLIE

Yes.

TOBY

That was the first time I ever got to set my lamps on her, and boy I fell like a Scotchman after a nicle rollin' down the street.

SALLIE

Well I wish you luck.

TOBY

I even sent her a bouquet of flowers--she's comin' in one of her swell cars, and take me out ridin'.

SALLIE

(LAUGHING) Mr. Kelly will like that I'm sure.

PEGGY

(ENTERS R. U.) Hello everybody. Where's dad?

SALLIE

He just went out a moment ago.

PEGGY

Oh, Toby, did dad give you a job in the office after what you said to him?

TOBY

Yep, I'm on the pay roll--number fourteen.

PEGGY

Oh I'm so glad. You know I think I'll get dad to let me come down and work in the office. (TO SALLIE) Do you think I could help?

SALLIE

Can you run a typewriter!

PEGGY

I do the hunt and peck!

TOBY

I do the breakway---I plunk one--and the whole darn thing breaks away.

SALLIE

I'm afraid, Peggy, there isn't a great deal to do in an office like this unless you could run out letters, and so forth.

PEGGY

Shoot! I wish father would let me learn something besides being a decoration.

SALLIE

It is rather hard to be idle all the time. Well, you'll excuse me, won't you?

TOBY

Don't mention it---trot out any time--the gates wide open.

SALLIE

(EXITS L.)

PEGGY

Gee! I wish I could be like her---she's so sensible and experienced

TOBY

I kinda like 'em better when they aint so dumb myself.

PEGGY

I hope you don't think I'm dumb.

TOBY

Of course not---I think you're the cream in my coffee, kid. Say did wear the flowers I sent you last night?

PEGGY
I didn't wear nothin' else but!

TOBY
Then what did you pin the flowers too

PEGGY
(LAUGHS) Smart aleck! Do you want to take me home. Can you drive a car? I'll let you drive mine.

TOBY
Is it anything like a Ford?

PEGGY
I don't know, but I just thought maybe we might go riding---

TOBY
I get you, kid---let's go.

PEGGY
I don't know whether you're going to like me or not, Toby. You're so practical, and you said you liked experienced girls--like Sallie. You know I'm not experienced.

TOBY
(TAKING HER ARM AND GOING OUT D. R. U.) That's all right, kid, you will be before we get home.

***** NUMBER TWO *****

SALLIE
(IS ON WORKING AWAY. AS USUAL) (CALENDAR SHOULD BE TORN FOR EACH SCENE. AS EVERY SCENE REPRESENTS A DAY. AND THE LAST SCENE REPRESENTS A MONTH.)

TOBY
(ENTERS R. U. QUICKLY. HE HAS ON A DIFFERENT SUIT. FIRST SUIT SHOULD BE LOOSE FITTING THIS ONE IS JUST THE OPPOSITE REAL TIGHT AND HIGH OVER HIS ANKLES SO IT SHOWS LOUD COLORED SOCKS) Gosh, the boss aint missed me has he?

SALLIE
No---even I didn't miss you.

TOBY
Good! I been out ridin' again with Peggy. Say she's a wonderful woman; I think we'll get married.

SALLIE
Is it as serious as all of that, Toby? I thought it was pretty bad seeing you all dolled up so nifty.

TOBY
Aint it so? Aint it so? I'm a regular little Hart Shaffner and Marx clothing model. (PULLS PANTS UP) Sox appeal!

SALLIE
Why, Toby, why have you got your stockings on wrong side out?

TOBY

Well, my feet get dirty and I have to turn the hose on them. (LOOKS AT CLOCK) WRIST WATCH) Gosh it's nine o'clock and the old war horse aint down yet. Guess it didn't hurt me to go riding with Peggy this morning. I thought maybe I might get fired.

STEVEN

(ENTERS R. U. DINNER PAIL IN ONE HAND AND DRESSED IN OVERALLS) Good morning, Sallie. (SMILES AND SEEMS PROUD OF HIS DRESS)

SALLIE

Why, Steven!

STEVEN

How do I look?

TOBY

If you feel like you look, you're going to need a doctor.

SALLIE

That will do from you, Toby. (X'S TO STEVEN AND FIXES HIS BOLLAR) Steven, I'm really proud of you.

TOBY

(LAUGHS) Hot dog! You can't kid me now, Sallie. I got just as much right to be in love with the old man's daughter as you have his son?

SALLIE

Toby, leave the office.

TOBY

Sure you can have it---only don't do anything I wouldn't do--

SALLIE

Well, that's giving us plenty of territory!

TOBY

A hot shot and right in the neck. This way out, Tillie. (EXITS R. U.)

STEVEN

He's a smart one. Say! Sallie, I read your book, and it's great. But do you know I left it on my bedroom table last night, and this morning I couldn't find it at all. I was going to bring it to you.

SALLIE

What do you suppose happened to it?

STEVEN

I have an idea that the butler or valet must of mislaid it. I had to hurry to keep from being late to work or I would of run them down.

KELLY

(ENTERS R. U.) Well, well, here's my boy and already to go to work.

STEVEN

You tell 'em, dad. Number thirteen is on the job.

KELLY

Do you know that I do not allow my workingmen in the office.

STEVEN

I know but I--

KELLY

You wanted to talk to Miss Mason. Well, out to the factory for you
----number 13.

STEVEN

All right, Mr--Gee boss. See you later, Sallie. (EXITS R. U.)

KELLY

(HANDS SALLIE HER MANUSCRIPT) Miss Mason, here is something which
belongs to you I believe. I found it in my son's room by accident.

SALLIE

My manuscript!

KELLY

(SITTING DOWN AND LOOKING AT HER WITH A HALF SMILE) The Zcar of
America---a man who grinds the poor and lower class into the ground.
So that's what you think of me. (LAUGHS RATHER UPRORIOUSLY)

Sallie

The book does not mention your name, sir.

KELLY

As if I couldn't read between the lines. You're like all the rest
of 'em---drawing a salary from me, and knocking me---declaiming me
because I have money and you don't. Damned socialist---anarchist

SALLIE

I suppose I am discharged?

KELLY

Not necessarily. Why should I discharge you any more than the rest
of the whining dogs who work for me? Go ahead say what you like.
Call me the Zcar, the Kaiser, Bulldog---donkey or what not. I don't
care. (POINTING HIS FINGER AT HER) But there is one thing I do draw
the line at. Leave my son alone.

SALLIE

Mr. Kelly!

KELLY

I know all about it. I'm not blind. No doubt the boy is slightly
infatuated with you---you have a fairly pretty face, but you are
not in his class. I want no more of it. Understand.

SALLIE

I understand you thoroughly. (TURNS AWAY TO HER DESK BITES HER LIPS)

KELLY

Now where is that impudent young office boy? I have something to say
to him also. (TAPS BELL ON HIS DESK LOUDLY)

TOBY

(ENTERS R. U.) Present, teacher!

KELLY

Young man, what were you doing this morning?

TOBY

I was---none of your business!

KELLY

You were out riding with my daughter, Peggy. I must tell you that it will have to stop. She is not for you. She is too good for you. She's made of different material.

TOBY

Since when was she gold plated and studded with diamonds.

KELLY

Sir, my daughter comes of blue blood.

TOBY

That's all right, I come from the good old American red blood---and blood is blood---and if you don't believe it ---let somebody cut your throat and see.

KELLY

The idea of my daughter being seen with one like you.

TOBY

Say now no disrespect to your daughter, because I think she's the greatest little girl in the world, in fact I'm going to marry her someday, and---

KELLY

(GAPPING) What!

TOBY

Don't open your mouth so wide; I can see your shoe strings. ~~Nowk~~
~~Alaska~~

KELLY

Number Fourteen! (RAPS ON DESK WITH FIST)

TOBY

Yes, Mr. Zero?

SALLIE

Toby, look out--you'll lose your job.

TOBY

That's all right; I was lookin' for a job when I caught this epidemic. He thinks he's a little bit better than the rest of us poor devils on this earth. Well, Mr. Kelly, you aint. You may have a whole lot of money, and you may own a whole lot of land, you might eat, sleep and dress better than us, but "ashes to ashes, and dust to dust" and believe me when the great roll call is laid out up Yonder, you'll be just a big a hunk of cinders as any of 'em. And remember this that when that noon whistle blows at noon time, it means you got to eat---feed your old belly, just like the sweatin' devils that work for you. You have to eat in the morning, noon and night, and you got to sleep at night. So no matter how good you think you are, Mr. Kelly, just remember---you're no better than I am---and I aint worth a damn!

KELLY

Why you brazen upstart, I'll-- (WHIRRING NOISE AND CLANK OF BROKEN
MACHINERY)

DODSON SALLIE

(ENTERS R. U.) Listen!

DODSON

(ENTERS R. U.) Mr. Kelly, the big belt strap is broken on that machine
it's going to throw out the whole darn business.

KELLY

Why tell me. Fix it.

DODSON

Mr. Kelly, that's a dangerous job. One little slip of the foot---
a light jar, and the thing shifts over the wrong way---a man could
get caught there---and killed.

KELLY

Bah! Send somebody to fix it. Get a number. I'll go see. (EXITS
R. U.)

Toby

I'll take a peep myself. (EXITS R. U.)

Sallie

I will too. (EXITS R. U.)

DODSON

Get some number, eh? What does it mean to him if some one is killed
or crippled---just another number---the yellow faced monster. God!
I can't ask a man to do ---who can I choose. (SEES BOOK) Here's
the payroll. I'll close my eyes, and hit a number whoever it is---
must go at it. (SHUTS EYES AND PICKS NUMBER) (GOES TO D. R. U. CALLS)
Number thirteen!

STEVEN

(ENTERS R. U.) What do you want?

DODSON

Good lord you!

STEVEN

Of course it's me. I'm thirteen. What's the matter?

DODSON

That machine---I shut my eyes and picked a number---

STEVEN

And I'm the one you hit---well do you think I'm afraid of it or
something. It's easy to fix. But holy gee, dad needs new machinery.
I'll tell 'em to watch that switch---then if I climb easy---

DODSON

Good gods be careful, boy.

STEVEN

Don't worry about me. (EXITS R. U.)

DODSON

(LOOKING AHEAD GRIMLY) Number thirteen! I wonder what strange fate guided my hand to that number?

KELLY

(ENTERS R. U. FOLLOWED BY SALLIE AND TOBY) Well, did you send a man?

DODSON

Yes.

TOBY

Who was the lucky dog?

DODSON

Number thirteen.

SALLIE

(GIVES A STARTED SCREAM) Steve!

~~DODSON~~ KELLY

My son! (LOOKS QUESTIONINGLY TO DODSON)

DODSON

(IRONICALLY LOOKING BACK AT HIM) I did not know, sir. They are not names, but numbers---just numbers!

KELLY

But he's mine! I must stop him.

SALLIE

We must! (THEY START UP R. U.)

TOBY

(LOOKING OFF) It's too late-- --he's already climbed up there.

SALLIE

No! No! Steve.-- (STARTS TO RUSH OUT)

TOBY

Look out! Don't call to him. He look around and then it will be off. He's out there. Hold tight, Steve, hold tight. (HE IS SAYING THIS MORE TO HIMSELF THAN TO STEVE)

KELLY

(CLENCHING HIS TREMBLING HANDS) My boy! My boy!

(LOW MUMBLE OUTSIDE OF MEN BEING SCARED. YELLS "LOOK OUT!" "GET AWAY FROM IT") (LOUD NOISE OF MACHINERY AND CONFUSION)

SALLIE

It caught him! It caught him! Oh God!

DODSON

He's being ground to death. (EXITS R. U.) (TOBY EXITS ALSO)

KELLY

Stop it! God in heaven, stop it.

SALLIE

Oh, Steve! Steve! (SOBBING) (THE MACHINERY STOPS EVERYTHING IS PERFECTLY Q U I E T) It's stopped! (EXITS R. U.)

KELLY

(STARTS TO GO AND LOOK BUT CANNOT. TURNS AWAY SINKS INTO A CHAIR A SICKENED BROKEN LOOK UPON HIS FACE)

PEGGY

(ENTERS R. U. CRYING) Oh, daddy, daddy, how could you have ever let Steve ~~shhshshh~~ work on that horrid machinery.

DODSON

(ENTERS R. U. STANDS LOOKING GRIMLY AT KELLY. THERE ARE A FEW SLIGHT STAINS OF BLOOD ON HIS HANDS)

KELLY

Dodson! My boy! He will live?

DODSON

There is a small chance sir---a small chance.

PEGGY

(SINKS IN CHAIR SOBBING) Oh!

KELLY

Steve! My boy--Steve!

DODSON

Yes---many a mother, many a wife, and father have said that about their sons. John Kelly, for twenty years your murderous machines have taken their tolls in arms, legs, fingers, and toes. You with your stubborn insistent ways. Now fate plays a strange fate on you. Now you know the feeling we all have had. (VOICE AND TEMPO HAS BEEN GRADUALLY WORKING UP AND HIS FINGER IS POINTING STRAIGHT INTO KELLY'S FACE) I'm not sorry! I'm glad! Glad!

KELLY

There's blood on your hands!

DODSON

Yes blood! Your blood! Blood. The very floors are stained with blood ---blood as good as this! How do you like it? How do you think I would like it if it were my son? (ALMOST CRAZY WITH AN OUTBURST OF PASSION THAT HAS BEEN CONTAINED FOR YEARS) Look at it! Touch it. Wash your face in it!

KELLY

Stop it! Stop it! (SCREAMS)

DODSON

(BREAKS INTO A FIT OF MANIAC LIKE LAUGHTER RUBBING HIS HANDS TOGETHER AND LOOKING AT THE BLOOD)

(CURTAIN DESCENDS QUICKLY)

***** NUMBER THREE *****

TOBY

(ISGON TRYING TO WRITE ON THE MACHINE) Darn these keys. I wish Sallie was here.

DODSON

(ENTERS R. U.) Good morning, Toby. What are you trying to do?

TOBY

Aw, just trying to get out a letter for the old man. Gosh since Sallie left for New York everything has been all upset.

DODSON

Mr. Kelly, doesn't seem to be having much luck with his stenographers.

TOBY

He's had six since Sallie, and everyone of 'em Lansing Michigan was a big surgical operation.

DODSON

(LUNGES) Well, Sallie has gone way up in the world, hasn't she?

TOBY

Yep, that book of hers, made the mark just right.

DODSON

I kinda feel sorry for old Kelly. He's changed so since Steve got hurt so bad.

TOBY

Sure-it took something like that to change the old bulldog into a lamb. He's gettin' to be almost like a human now.

DODSON

Well, just a few months bring on a lot of changes, don't they.

TOBY

They sure do. Three months ago---we didn't have a ny new machinery--nor no gymnasium---and swimmin' pool like we got now.

DODSON

No---I declare it seems like agen the sun shines brighter over this old town. Boy, wasn't he a stubborn old fellow though?

TOBY

Gosh, I'll say---lettin' his hair grow all the time---wouldn't even go to barbers--just cause folks tried to make him go. He said something the other night about gettin' a hair cut.

DODSON

I declare we'd have to call it a holiday if he did.

TOBY

Did you know that Steve is up and walkin' around now?

DODSON

That so? I was over to see him not long ago.

TOBY

Shucks! I go four and five times a day---course I go to see Peggy too.

DODS ON

I knew it wasn't just to see Steve alone you went. Well, I want to see Mr. Kelly when he gets down. Some new machinery arrived and I want to ask him about putting it up. Don't work too hard, Toby.
(EXITS R. U.)

TOBY

Don't worry about me. (TRIES TO WRITE ON THE MACHINE) Darn it. I'm gonna write Sallie and tell her to come back herel.

KELLY

(ENTERS R. U. TAKES OFF HIS COAT, HANGS IT UP, HANGS UP HIS CANE, AND THEN REMOVES HIS HAT. HIS HAIR HAS BEEN CUT. THE WAY TO DO THIS PART IS WEAR A GREY WIG ALL THROUGH SCENES. THEN TAKE IT OFF AND HAVE HAIR GREYED AND CUT NEATLY. NATURALLY THE REAL HAIR IS GOING TO LOOK SHORTER THAN THE WIG) Good morning, Toby.

TOBY

(STARING AT HIS HAIR CUT) Good---good---

KELLY

What are you staring at?

TOBY

Holy jumpin' up tadpoles ---you got your hair cut!

KELLY

Yes! I was passing the barbers this morning, and just dropped in.

TOBY

I'll bet you feel half naked.

KELLY

It seems like everybody in town had to notice that I got a hair cut.

TOBY

Believe me it's something to notice I'm tellin' you?

KELLY

Toby, I received a letter this morning, and Sallie is coming back.

TOBY

Is she? Hurrah!

KELLY

I humbled myself to ask her to come back and marry my boy, Steven. He wants her, and I'm not going to make him unhappy.

TOBY

You should of done that a long time ago. Gosh! Think of all the good things you've done for your men, and everybody else---even yourself. Don't make you feel better?

KELLY

(SMILES A LITTLE) I suppose it does.

TOBY

Now there's one more good turn you should do---and that's for your daughter Peggy. You want her to be happy too, don't you?

KELLY

Of course.

TOBY

Well, then just ask me to marry her, and I'll do it.

KELLY

I'll bet you would at that!

DODSON

(ENTERS R. U.) Good morning, sir. I've got some reports and questions to ask. Now you see---(BEGIN STARING AT KELLY'S HAIR CUT) You see--- you see---

KELLY

Well, what's the matter with you?

DODSON

Mr. Kelly, you've got your hair cut.

KELLY

(A LITTLE CROSS) Yes I've got my haircut. That's the nine hundredth time I've been told that. I'll begin to get out of humor in a minute.

DODSON

Certainly looks nice, sir.

KELLY

Thank you, Dodson.

PEGGY

(ENTERS R. U.) Hello, daddy, say Steven's up and running around on his leg---do you think it's safe---I told him I was going to tell on him--he's found out Sam is coming and now he's waiting down at the old depot nine hours before train time. Been there ever since six this morning, and daddy---I---(SEES HAIRCUT) Oh you dear sweet thing! (THROWS HER ARMS AROUND HIM)

KELLY

What's the matter? What's the matter?

PEGGY

You've got your hair cut!

KELLY

(IN DESPAIR) Oh!

PEGGY

Doesn't he look nice, Toby? I've got the best looking dad in the world now! Just think, daddy, you've got your hair cut.

KELLY

Say, I came down town in pretty good humor, but I'm afraid I'm going to lose my temper before the day's over.

DODSON

Well, I guess I'll be going. I'll see you about them reports later, sir.

KELLY

Very well, Dodson/

DODSON

I certainly think your hair cut looks nice, and--

KELLY

Get out of here! (DODSON EXITS R. U.)

PEGGY

Gee, I'm really proud of you, DAD.

KELLY

I wish I hadn't got it cut. I never knew it was going to cause such a storm.

STEVEN

(ENTERS R. U. LIMPS AND USES A CANE) ~~knock knock~~

TOBY

Here's Steve. How you feelin', Steve?

STEVE

Oh all right.

KELLY

What's the matter? Why the gloomy look?

STEVE

She didn't come. The train is in and pulled out and she wasn't on it.

KELLY

Oh well, there's another train later.

STEVE

Yeah--(BEGINS LOOKING AT HIS DAD) What's the matter with your head?

KELLY

My head?

STEVE

Dad, you've got a hair cut.

KELLY

Yes, I've got a hair cut! Pretty soon I'll be positive that I've got a hair cut. (AUTO HORN OFF STAGE) Who's honking that horn?

TOBY

(GOES TO WINDOW AND LOOKS OUT) Its her---it's Sallie. Gosh a might y and she's driving a big car.

PEGGY

Look how nice she's dressed too.

SALLIE

(ENTERS R. U. WEARS A BIG FUR COAT AND LOOKS REAL CLASSY) Steve!

STEVE

(EMBRACING HER) Sallie!

TOBY
(EMBRACING PEGGY) Peggy!

PEGGY
Look out! Dad will see.

TOBY
He doesn't care, do you, Mr. Kelly?

KELLY
I'm afraid it wouldn't do any good. Go ahead, children. I'm glad to see you're happy. Sallie, I congratulate you on your book.

KELLY SALLIE
~~THANKS~~ Thank you. Why, Mr. Kelly---(STARES) You've got your hair out!

KELLY
Oh here's another one! (HOLDS HEAD, THEN GETS HAT) Maybe this will stop the comment. Well, children, I wonder when the weddings will be?

SALLIE
I'm not sure. I wonder---

STEVEN
It's up to you, Sallie. I wonder--

PEGGY
I wonder when we should have it? I wonder--

KELLY
I wonder!

TOBY
I don't know, but there's one thing sure---

KELLY
What's that?

TOBY
That you've got your hair out!

KELLY
Say that again, and you're going out of here.

VOICE
(OFF STAGE) Extra! Extra edition paper. Read all about it.

PEGGY
There's an extra out.

KELLY
(TO TOBY) Go see what it is.

TOBY
All right. (EXITS AND COMES BACK WITH PAPER LAUGHING)

ALL
What does it say?

TOBY

Mr. John Kelly got his hair cut!

KELLY

Give me that! (TEARS PAPER UP, AND THEY ALL LAUGH)

***** FINALE *****

**
